

By

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H.S.R. No. 15

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Governor Preston Smith is deserving of the highest
2 praise for his administration as Governor of Texas and is due a
3 comparable degree of esteem for his long career as a capable and
4 effective statesman and lawmaker. His life in public service has
5 followed in the finest tradition of the distinguished public
6 officials of Texas; and

7 WHEREAS, He has proved that a man of the people and for the
8 people can, through dint of hard work and remarkable capability,
9 raise himself to the highest office and greatest honor in the
10 State of Texas, the Office of Governor. Having attained that
11 office he has made it apparent to all that a self-made man who
12 worked his way through college and created his own business is
13 especially qualified to perform the duties inherent in the
14 Governor's role with proficiency, dignity, and wisdom; and

15 WHEREAS, Governor Smith's years of public service began in
16 1944 when he was elected State Representative for the 119th
17 District. He was immediately recognized as a leader and earned
18 the utmost respect from his fellow lawmakers. He ran for two
19 more successive terms and was reelected without opposition in
20 both races; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1956 he was elected State Senator from the 28th
22 Senatorial District. His constituents were anxious to show the
23 confidence and trust they felt in him. After being reelected
24 State Senator in 1960 he ran successfully in 1962 for Lieutenant

1 Governor and again in 1964 and 1966. During these years the
2 Senate hailed him as an unusually able leader who aimed
3 unswervingly to provide his state with the best legislative
4 guidance possible; and

5 WHEREAS, It is in the office of Governor, however, that
6 Preston Smith has shown to the fullest extent his real capabilities
7 as an innovative and creative leader with seemingly unerring
8 knowledge of what will most benefit his state and the citizens
9 of Texas. He has always viewed the role of Texas state government
10 as one to help people, at a local, personal level, to solve their
11 problems and to maximize their opportunities; and

12 WHEREAS, His special style as Governor arises from his own
13 experience and is a consequence of his belief that governmental
14 decisions should be made at the local level whenever possible,
15 which is the best expression of government by the people. He
16 foresaw the move of many decision-making responsibilities from
17 the federal to state and local levels and he acted in significant
18 ways to make the transition a profitable one for the people; and

19 WHEREAS, He initiated and designed new and exciting programs
20 created to discern the needs of citizens and the best methods for
21 accomplishing their goals. His administration could appropriately
22 be labeled a "Program of Opportunity." He expended much effort
23 to provide the best educational system possible. During his years
24 in office innumerable new universities and professional colleges
25 were funded, also huge strides were made in the fields of
26 vocational and technical education. In addition, he worked hard
27 on behalf of the state's educators and created a program of

1 in-service training and continuing education for state employees;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, He was diligent in this efforts to curb crime,
4 initiating new actions in the fight to combat drug abuse and an
5 alcohol safety action program. He originated a tremendous drive
6 to improve highway safety with a comprehensive traffic safety
7 program; and

8 WHEREAS, One of his biggest areas of interest and action
9 has been in the human relations field. He set high goals for the
10 Human Relations Committee and has maintained the Governor's
11 Conference on Children and Youth. In the executive branch he
12 included an Office of Early Childhood Development. Due to the
13 open lines of communication with students, a desire for
14 understanding as well as a demand for mature responsibility, he
15 sucessfully met current crises on university campuses; and

16 WHEREAS, Concerned about the Texas economy and the most
17 efficient use of the state's natural endowments, he has maintained
18 the opportunity for Texas to benefit from its Gulf Coast and
19 marine resources. In addition, he fostered the Industrial
20 Development Commission and engineered manpower planning. The
21 Texas Film Commission has attracted a new industry to the state.
22 To maintain existing trade benefits the Texas International Trade
23 Office was opened in Mexico City. Especially important to any
24 economy is transportation; therefore, a state-wide study of
25 transportation needs was undertaken during his administration;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, The urban crisis was directly confronted by the

1 Texas Urban Development Commission sponsored by the Governor:
2 implementation is in effect through Model Cities, Operation
3 Breakthrough, and the Texas Office of Economic Opportunity. Nor
4 did the Governor neglect the rural areas: Texas Communities
5 Tomorrow is pioneering new ways of providing assistance to local
6 communities; and

7 WHEREAS, Perhaps the most significant of the Governor's
8 accomplishments is his program for coordinating federal, state,
9 and local governmental efforts. Not only was this effected by
10 creating an intergovernmental relations commission or by increasing
11 funds for the significant work of the Councils of Government, but
12 also a well-planned yet flexible program of the future was
13 presented in Goals for Texas; and

14 WHEREAS, Governor Preston Smith has contributed much to his
15 state; his life has been dedicated to its welfare. Texas cannot
16 count the ways it has benefited from his direction, his energy,
17 and his ideas. The people, the lawmakers, all Texans, can only
18 humbly thank him for the service he has rendered; now, therefore,
19 be it

20 RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the State of
21 Texas, That Governor Preston Smith hereby be commended and honored,
22 and that he be extended highest tribute by this Resolution for
23 all he has done to perpetuate the tradition of excellent state
24 government in Texas; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be
26 presented to Governor Preston Smith as an expression of
27 appreciation and highest regard from the House of Representatives

1 of the State of Texas.